

FACT SHEET



INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

Webb Wellfield

Office of Land Quality

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100 N. Senate Ave., Indianapolis, IN 46204

Background:

- The Webb Wellfield consisted of three municipal wells in the town of Franklin that supplemented the municipal water supply for Johnson County.
- Two wells in the Webb Wellfield were contaminated with the chemicals cis-1,2-dichloroethylene and trans-1,2-dichloroethylene based on the findings from routine samples collected from the wells in compliance with The Safe Drinking Water Act.
- Indiana American Water Company discontinued its use of the Webb Wellfield in November of 2013
- The utility currently draws and treats water from its Sugar Creek wellfield. Data show that the utility continues to provide safe drinking water to consumers.

Description:

- The chemicals cis-1,2-dichloroethylene and trans-1,2-dichloroethylene are chlorinated volatile organic compounds that can be used in dry cleaning and industrial degreasing activities, but typically derive from the anaerobic breakdown of other chemicals (e.g., trichloroethylene or tetrachloroethylene) used in dry cleaning and industrial degreasing activities.
- As a result of the contamination that once existed in the Webb Wellfield. IDEM has conducted investigations to determine the source of the contamination, how widespread it may be, and how it may be remediated. These investigations have taken place under both Federal and State authority.
- IDEM is currently overseeing an enforcement led cleanup of chlorinated volatile organic compounds that was identified during the Webb Wellfield investigation. It has not been determined that this is the source of the Webb Wellfield Contamination.

Environmental Impacts:

- Exposure to these compounds can happen in many ways but most commonly occurs by releases that leach through soil into the groundwater and subsequently are taken up into drinking water wells.
- The removal of the Webb Wellfield has eliminated the main route of exposure for the contamination that was identified in the groundwater. Continued Investigation and remediation will also remove contaminants from the environment and remove any possible exposure pathways.
- The accompanying fact sheet on 1,2-dichloroethene from the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry explains these compounds and their affects in more detail.

IDEM's Role:

- IDEM is responsible for protecting human health and the environment while providing for environmentally sound operations of industrial, agricultural, commercial, and governmental activities vital to a prosperous economy.
- IDEM's State Cleanup Program will continue to oversee cleanup of the contamination that has been identified as a result of the Webb Wellfield investigation and make sure routes of human and environmental exposure are eliminated.

Citizen's Role:

- Citizens should notify IDEM if they have knowledge of additional sources of environmental contamination affecting this investigation or threatening the health and safety of the citizens of Franklin or the surrounding area.

More Information:

- For information about the Webb Wellfield and the environmental investigation resulting from its contamination contact Tim Johnson with IDEM's State Cleanup Program, at (317) 234-3931; toll free at (800) 451-6027, ext. 4-3931; or via e-mail at tjohnson@idem.IN.gov.
- For additional health-related information, please contact one of the following:
 - Mark Johnson, regional representative with the federal Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), at (312) 353-3436, or (800) 621-8431, ext. 3-3436;
 - Andrew Pappas, Environmental Projects Manager, Environmental Public Health Division, at the Indiana State Department of Health, at (317) 233-7360 or apappas@isdh.IN.gov; or,
 - Elizabeth Swearingen, Director, Johnson County Health Department, at (317) 346-4374, or eswearingen@co.johnson.in.us.
- For information about IDEM's State Cleanup Program, please visit IDEM's website at www.idem.in.gov/4143.htm.
- For information about cis-1,2- dichloroethylene and trans-1,2- dichloroethylene, or other ground water contaminants, please see the accompanying Fact Sheet or visit the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry's "ToxFAQs" website at www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfags/tf.asp?id=463&tid=82.
- Media may contact Barry Sneed, public information officer with IDEM's Office of Media Relations, at (317) 232-8596; toll free at (800) 451-6027; or by e-mail at bsneed@idem.IN.gov.